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ACCOUNT OF CHRONIC RHEUMATISM IN A NEW FORM.

At the sixth meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which was held at Bristol in August last, Mr. Adams, one of the surgeons of the Richmond Hospital, Dublin, gave an oral account of the morbid appearances he had noticed in different joints of the body, the results of a disease which, for want of a better name, is called chronic rheumatism. He stated that the profession were now quite familiar with this disease as it appeared in the hip joint, which is fortunate; for heretofore there can be no question but that both in the living and the dead the disease was confounded with morbid affections totally different, and requiring different treatment. The shortening of the whole limb, and eversion of the foot, made the affection, in its external characters, much resemble the fracture of the neck of the thigh bone, and when the actual bones are examined after death, the resemblance these bear to the fracture alluded to, was, on a superficial examination, very striking, and accounted for these mistakes having been made over and over again. But the external signs of this disease are now well known, and the ivory deposit in the place of the cartilage removed, and the complete filling up of the bottom of the acetabulum or socket of the hip, by a hard osseous deposition, render the distinction easy to the pathologist. This distinction, even in a pathological point of view, is of more consequence than might at first sight appear; for the anatomical character of the head and neck of the thigh bone, in the morbus coxæsenilis, are so similar to the case in which it might have been imagined that an intra-capsular fracture of the cervix femoris had united, that the mistake has been frequently made, and erroneous inferences have been drawn, and false hopes encouraged, as to the practicability of effecting a re-union of the fractured neck of the thigh bone. From viewing these cases, the result has been, that the mild, and he would say merciful mode of treating advised by Sir A. Cooper, of the intra-capsular fracture (the subjects of which are generally old and debilitated), has been abandoned, and splints and bandages applied, which have created irritative fever, and even death.

Mr. Adams then produced specimens of the same disease in the shoulder joint—showed how the glenoid cavity of the shoulder blade became enlarged, as well as the head of the humerus—and further pointed out, that almost invariably the loss of the tendon of the biceps was to be noticed, analogous to the uniform loss of the internal ligament when the hip was affected. The existence of foreign bodies on the joint was

also stated as a common occurrence in these cases ; the effusion of synovial fluid in increased quantity—the atrophy of the deltoid muscle—the adduction towards the middle line, by the pectoral muscle—and the apparent slipping in and out of the head of the humerus, gave the idea of what is called a partial luxation of the humerus. Mr. Adams took occasion here to explain what was the real cause of partial luxation of the humerus ; he referred to the case of dissection found at page 305 of Sir A. Cooper's work on Dislocations, and brought forward to illustrate the pathology of partial luxation of the humerus, which, however, in his opinion, was not really a partial luxation, but this chronic disease of the shoulder joint, called chronic rheumatism, or "rheumatic gout." Mr. Adams took occasion to apologize for thus alluding to Sir A. Cooper's labors, who he was satisfied had done more to enlarge our knowledge of the accidents the joints are liable to, than any other individual living ; but by many dissections and observations, Mr. Adams felt satisfied that the case of partial luxation of the humerus, as described by Sir A. Cooper and others, required to be verified further by dissections before the entire assent of the profession should be given to it ; and he felt quite convinced that the case described by Mr. Patey in Sir A. Cooper's valuable work (page 305, new edition), and represented in an engraving, plate xxii. figure 2, is a true specimen, and an admirable illustration of the disease under consideration. Mr. Adams here showed several specimens of this disease of the shoulder.

Mr. Adams next exhibited examples of what he attributed to a similar morbid action which had taken place in the elbow joint ; here also the size the bones had attained was considerable ; there were numerous foreign bodies, from the size of a pea to that of a small walnut ; some of them were cartilaginous, some bony—the articular cartilages had been removed from the ends of the bones, parallel grooves in the direction of flexion and extension were shown, and in these, and in their neighborhood, an ivory deposit was shown. Two specimens, from two different subjects, one in the wet state, the other dry, were produced ; another specimen showed the ivory enamel on the head of the radius ; its increase of size was noticed, and a depression was formed to accommodate its rotation on the humerus ; and, strange to relate, in two cases, a dimple-like depression was formed on the globular head of the radius, and a round ligament like that of the femur was produced. The same disease was also exhibited in the knee joint ; similar enlargements, parallel grooves in the line of flexion, foreign bodies, vascularity of the synovial fimbriæ, were all noted as in the elbow joint, removal of cartilage, and substitution in its place of an ivory deposit. The hip joint appeared most frequently affected, the knee and elbow next, the shoulder and wrist next ; in short, Mr. Adams has seen the same disease in every joint ; the fingers also become distorted by it. It does not confine itself to the *heads of the bones*, but the same, or a similar morbid disposition to deposit a porcelain-like matter, existed even in the *interior of the bones*, the substance of the radius, the interior of the head of the femur—the lower jaw itself. A drawing was here produced of this disease in a woman aged thirty, who was at this moment under treatment in the Richmond Surgi-

cal Hospital, whose hand and fingers were distorted, adducted, or drawn to the inner side of the forearm, in that characteristic manner which at once reminds us of the affection of the system of the joints, tendons, &c. called chronic rheumatism. The lower jaw in her case is so distorted, that the chin passed the middle line at least one inch to the left side.

The importance of distinguishing this painful, though not dangerous disease, from all others, was pointed out, as well as the danger of having recourse to blisters, setons, and incisions, all of which he had known proposed, and some *practised*. The coexistence of numerous foreign bodies with this morbid condition of the bones of the joints, the cartilages and the vascular condition of the synovial fimbriæ, was much dwelt upon; and the danger and folly of attempting the excision of foreign bodies when these form such a *small part* of the disease, was pointed out.

Although Mr. Adams felt assured that many of the observations he was now making to the Section of Medical Science, and proving by the actual exhibition of specimens, were new, he did not mean to assume merit to himself; but except he showed they were new, he could scarcely be excused for delaying the Section with them. As far as the hip joint is concerned, he must acknowledge that even so far back as the period when he commenced his professional studies, the external signs of this disease were well known in Dublin; and the anatomical character, as to the ivory deposit, and thickening of the capsular ligament, had been for many years alluded to in the clinical lectures delivered in Dublin, and were clearly pointed out by his young friend, Mr. R. W. Smith, in his account of this disease in the 6th volume of the Dublin Medical Journal. However, a beautiful engraving of this disease will be found in the Museum Anatomica of Sandifort. Sir Benj. Brodie, in his work on the Joints; Mr. Key, in the 18th volume of the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions; Lobstein, in his Pathological Anatomy, tom. ii; have all very briefly alluded to this disease, as well as Benjamin Bell, &c.; but Mr. Adams has not seen anywhere so complete an account of this affection in all the bones as its importance would appear to him to demand. Cruvelhier, of Paris, has certainly entered more fully than any other writer into its pathology and pathological anatomy, and has denominated this disease, *Usure des Cartilages articulaires*, thus giving to the disease "a local habitation and a name." But the name would confine the disease to the cartilages and the joints; but Mr. Adams had shown that the irritation, whatever it be, or whatever name you give to it, extends to all the structures around the joints, and the shafts and centres of the bones themselves. Mr. Adams wished that he could say something satisfactory as to the treatment of this disease, but he confessed that upon this head he had not much that was satisfactory to communicate.

Mr. Adams next brought forward a very fine preparation—both of the lower extremities of an individual, who had died of cancer, who sixteen years before had been admitted into the Richmond Hospital by the late Mr. Todd, on account of a popliteal aneurism in his left ham; the artery was tied in the thigh. In three weeks the man walked out of the hospital perfectly well, never having had a bad symptom, nor his pulse ever having risen above 80 in a minute. The case, so far, is published

in the 3d vol. of the Dublin Hospital Reports. In three years subsequently to this, the poor fellow applied again to the same hospital, and the late Mr. Todd again performed a similar operation, which was followed by a similar happy result, and he never suffered any further inconvenience in his limbs, having been perfectly cured of his aneurisms. In April last, when Mr. Adams was prescribing for the Dispensary patients at the Richmond Hospital, this man, M'Owen, applied to him; it was too plain, from the emaciated appearance of this once athletic man—from his peculiar or pale straw-colored hue, and expression of countenance, that some bad organic internal disease had taken possession of him; and a few inquiries made it clear that a cancer of the stomach, near its œsophageal orifice, existed. He was advised to return to the country, as little or nothing could be done for him; but now being about the age of forty-two, and full of hope that his life might be prolonged, and of confidence in the hospital where he was twice before relieved, he returned and demanded admission. Everything was done that could be thought of to palliate his sufferings, but in vain. Upon dissection of both limbs, which was done by his friend Mr. R. W. Smith, the learned curator of our Museum, and to whom is due the merit of this splendid preparation, it was found that the main artery of the limb on each side was interrupted only for half an inch in one inguinal region when tied, and for a quarter of an inch in the other; and in each popliteal only two inches converted into a ligamentary cord; the circuitous channels, which acted as supplementary canals to carry round the blood when obstructed in the main artery, were seen much enlarged, and were remarkably tortuous. The case differed from most others, in the circumstance of the canal of the main artery having been so much restored; the case showed in a strong light the great advancement which the science and the practice of surgery had made, and the debt (*humanly speaking*) which was due to the genius of John Hunter, who first pointed out the method of treating popliteal aneurism, by including the femoral artery in a ligature at a *distance* from the diseased artery. The old operation was so painful and so dangerous, that the late Mr. Percival Pott was known to have stated, that were he the subject of this disease, he should much prefer to submit to amputation of the thigh, than to undergo the pain and risk of the operation for popliteal aneurism practised in his day. In this case, by two simple incisions, which caused but little pain and no fever, he was twice perfectly cured of the most formidable disease which can afflict humanity.

CASE OF NERVOUS IRRITABILITY.

Mrs. H. B. aged 24 years, of a very nervous temperament, while sewing on the 15th of September, 1824, pricked her left thumb under the nail with a small cambric needle. Little attention was paid to so trifling a hurt until the 17th inst., when it became tender and painful, but without any signs of inflammation. The pain then began to ascend the

arm, and was so severe as to become alarming. I was called on for advice, and directed the part to be bathed with hot spts. tereb. and laudanum, and to take inwardly laud. and vitr. æther, sufficient to allay the pain. By night it had increased, and began to affect the muscles of the face and the neck on the wounded side to such a degree as to cause serious fear of a trismus or "lock jaw." The doses of laud. and æther were increased to the extent of 120 drops, every hour or two, and a liniment of ol. succin. ol. oliv. and laud. rubbed hot on the arm and neck, with a direction to keep the arm very warm with a covering of flannel, as cold air seemed to increase the pain very much. On the 18th a blistering plaister was applied all round the thumb, with the intention of relieving the irritation of the wounded nerve, by exciting a new action in the neighboring parts. This application, aided by the warm bath, had a very beneficial effect in allaying the pain and spasmodic tendency of the disease. By continuing the laudanum in large doses, sometimes to the extent of half an ounce, the pain was in the course of a week so far subdued as only to be troublesome occasionally. The disease now put on more the character of hysteria, attended at times with violent delirium, and fits of sobbing. For this difficulty, venesection was prescribed with manifest advantage. She was also put upon a course of carb. iron, with the intention of strengthening the nervous system, as well as the general health, which had become considerably impaired. By the first of November, the pain had nearly ceased and the symptoms of trismus left her; but the whole arm had become so irritable that the least cold was painful. To overcome this sickly irritability, the cold bath, or rather shower bath, was directed every morning, and even at night, if necessary, with decided benefit, the arm remaining comfortable and easy for hours after the application of the water. About the middle of the month of November, electricity was tried, by passing light shocks through the hand and arm, without much apparent benefit. Near this period she became pregnant, which probably occasioned several severe fits of hysteria. A painful affection, with inflammation, of the face and jaws came on in December, which suppurated and discharged from the gum of the affected side. This, with the change in the system, consequent on pregnancy, relieved the train of spasmodic symptoms which had so long attended her. From this time she continued in tolerable health until June, when she was troubled with a good deal of pain in the left side, attended with nervous symptoms; bleeding, with nervines, relieved these difficulties. About the middle of July she was delivered of a dead child. The fatigue of the labor, and the depression of mind from the loss of the child, brought on a hoarseness and soreness of the throat, attended with severe pain in the chest, great difficulty of breathing, and a cough which sounded like the barking of a small dog. There was no expectoration. This was the second night after the "accouchment." To relieve these symptoms two or three free bleedings were directed; and as the blood was highly inflammatory, the evacuations were large, averaging twenty ounces each. A large blistering plaister was applied to the breast, febrifuge and expectorating powders and drinks were given, with a diet of gruel and rice water. This course afforded

relief in two or three days. It also checked the secretion of milk so much that a small puppy kept her breasts free and soft. After these symptoms had left her, there commenced a very severe pain in the back part of her head; it was apparently occasioned by nervous irritation, but so severe that it required the largest doses of opium to afford any relief. These were repeated so regularly, and so often, that the worst consequences were feared from their continued use. Thinking it might rise from debility, as the paroxysms were periodical, large doses of sul. quinine were given a few hours previous to the accession of the pain. This medicine had a fine effect for a few days, in preventing the return of the paroxysms; but in a week or more it ceased; it seemed to lose its influence over the complaint. Riding in a carriage was now tried with the happiest effect; the pain left her after riding a few miles, and by continuing it a number of days, and changing her place of residence as long, the pain in the occipital region left her, and did not again return. Through August and September, her health improved, but at the setting in of cool weather the last of October and beginning of November, the pain returned, but was now seated in the sternum, apparently behind the bone or in the adjoining mediastinum. It was attended with little or no fever, but with considerable rigors—was very acute, and felt like the gnawing of some small animal. A large blister relieved it in a few days. In a week or two, a similar pain was felt in the right side, about the seventh rib, midway between the scrobiculus cordis and spine. It was very severe, and attended with so much fulness of the side, that she was fearful that an abscess was forming. It was probably occasioned by venous engorgement of the liver. I did not see her in this attack for several days after its commencement, but a neighboring physician saw her; bled and blistered her, calling it a pleurisy. The blood which I saw was not sizy, nor did it present an inflammatory appearance; tongue not coated, nor was there heat or thirst. I therefore concluded the pain arose from the same cause as that formerly in the head and breast, viz. nervous irritation; perhaps the remains of that action excited in the system from the prick of the needle, and now wandering through the frame like a rheumatic affection. With this view, refraining from any more bleeding, I prescribed an infusion of R. Valerian and Fol. Eup. perfol., warm, so as to produce perspiration, with occasional doses of Tolu. bals. comp. and after a few days put a seton in the side, over the seat of the pain, with a direction to make it discharge freely; and as a tonic, to take hoarhound and the mur. tinct. fer. The seton was applied to relieve engorgement, and prevent the fixing of disease on a vital part by the long continuance of pain; it had also been used with benefit in her neck, the last summer, while laboring with the distress in her head. The pain left her as soon as the seton began to discharge, and by the use of the tonic medicines her health was much improved; the pain occasionally returns, before changes of weather, like chronic rheumatism.

Remarks.—In the above case we learn how trifling an injury may derange the healthy movements of the human frame, and how the derangement is increased ten fold by nervous temperament. The more sensitive the mind and intellectual faculties, with so much less impunity the

subject bears physical injury. A simple cut or bruise on an ignorant, robust man, heals much more readily than on one with a refined mind and delicate frame. The animal man bears injury much better than the intellectual man.—*Western Med. Jour.*

MEDICAL NOTICE OF ST. LOUIS, MO.

BY DANIEL DRAKE, M.D.

THE great relative importance of St. Louis, among the new cities of the expanded and flourishing West, must render a passing *medical* notice of its physical and social condition, acceptable. St. Louis is strictly the capital of the *far West*. Situated beyond the original limits of the Union, on the further bank of the Mississippi, and at the edge of the great eastern declivity of the Chippewyan, absurdly called Stony Mountains, a traveller from the central part of the Valley of the Ohio finds himself, on landing at this place, quite without the limits of his former associations, and feels many new and interesting emotions. The expanded, deep, and rapid river that washes the rocky *quay* of the town, and carries onward to the ocean the sandy and argillaceous *debris* of the extensive diluvial formations, through which the Missouri rolls its waters, presents him with geological specimens of the great western *terra incognita*, and animates him to inquire into the composition of those turbid waters, and their probable influence on the health of those who drink them, and of those who live where the alluvion of the stream is accumulated. These deposits are constantly changing their places, so that families which were once on the margin of deep waters, are now in the neighborhood of extensive *bars*, composed of sand, clay, and uprooted trees, confusedly blended, and exposed in July, August, September, and October, to the rays of the sun. Extensive deposits of this kind, annually extending in some directions and contracting in others, exist adjacent to the lower parts of the city, and must be looked upon as a source of autumnal disease.

Immediately opposite this bar, there enters the Mississippi a small stream, the bed of which for a quarter of a mile abounds in slime, which lying to the south of the city, must, to a certain extent, be regarded as injurious to health. A high mill dam thrown across this stream, forms, above and to the south-west of the city, a sinuous lake of deep clear water, surrounded by high, verdant banks, which, therefore, cannot be supposed to exert any great degree of mischievous influence on the health of the city, although lying in the course of its summer winds.

On the opposite side of the river, is the American Bottom, extending from the mouth of the Kaskaskia river, to Alton, above the junction of the Missouri with the Mississippi; and having, opposite St. Louis, a width of six or eight miles. I crossed this *bottom* to the Illinois *bluffs*, and found it abounding in shallow lakes, lagoons and bayous, which, during the rains of spring, accumulate a great deal of water, much of which is lost by evaporation and infiltration in the course of the summer. This

bottom is among the most fertile spots of the whole earth ; and in a century, when a system of draining and tillage shall have been established in it, will become healthy, but, at present, it is infested with mosquitoes, and intermittent fevers ; the latter followed by enlarged viscera and dropsical infiltrations. As the Mississippi is two thirds of a mile wide, and the Illinois alluvion lies directly to the east of St. Louis, it cannot be regarded as contributing much to the unhealthiness of the place.

The city is built on a gentle declivity, highly favorable to cleanliness ; but its municipal authorities do not seem to pay any special attention to the " art and mystery " of *scavengering*.

The substratum of its site and of the country in its rear, is a secondary siliceous limestone, abounding in beds of bituminous coal. The elevation of the highest part of the city, above the mean height of the river, may be eighty or one hundred feet—that of the adjoining country, as much more. The surface of the latter is undulatory, with basins, from which the rains pass into the cavernous limestone below, to burst out in large perennial springs, which, however, are not very numerous. On the whole, the topography of St. Louis seems to me rather more favorable to health than that, either of Cincinnati or Louisville. Six miles west of the city, there is a sulphur spring, which, however, has not yet become a place of fashionable resort. The fuel consumed by the citizens is a mixture of wood, and bituminous coal abounding in pyrites. At present the former predominates, but it is easy to foresee that at no distant time the latter must be chiefly used.

The city is supplied with water from the Mississippi, pumped by steam machinery into a basin constructed on one of the ancient mounds, which abound on either bank of the river. Taken from the Missouri side of the stream, it has, of course, the muddiness of that river, but by subsidence and filtration it is rendered transparent and pleasant.

The population of St. Louis, consists of creole French, quite a minority ; negro slaves, not very numerous, *apparently* not so many, compared with the population, as the free negroes of Cincinnati ; German and Irish emigrants, the former much the most numerous ; and, lastly, emigrants from the various States, from New England to the Carolinas inclusive. In addition to all these, there are always sojourning in it, a great many boatmen, and a number of hunters and fur-traders. Thus, the elements of its population are extremely diversified ; and many fine opportunities will be created for studying the varieties of physiological character, which must necessarily result from an extensive commingling of the different *castes*.

The physicians of the city are, as in the other towns of the West, in good proportion to the number of the people. The majority of them appear to be " new comers," and gentlemen in early life, educated in various schools. They are not *entirely* without some of the intestine difficulties which perplex the faculty, in all new towns as well as old ; but a laudable effort has lately been made to obviate jealousies, and create a professional *esprit du corps*, by establishing a society, which is styled the Medical Society of Missouri. This society has the distinction of being the first ever established west of the Mississippi river.

St. Louis has one public infirmary, called the St. Louis Hospital. It is in the management of the Sisters of Charity, by whose exertions, in a great degree, it was founded. It has attached to it, an entire square in the southern, but not the healthiest part of the city, presented for the purpose by the late Mr. John Mullanphy. The edifice, erected by contributions from the citizens of St. Louis, is small, but well adapted to the object, and furnished and kept in a style of great comfort and neatness. Many of the sick paupers of the city are sent to it at the public expense. In addition, strangers who have the means of payment, are permitted to enter, and selecting their own physicians, secure to themselves the care and sympathy of the respectable ladies who have dedicated their lives to this labor of charity. The medical attendants are Dr. Campbell and Dr. Call.—*Western Med. Jour.*

POPULAR LECTURE ON ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—My curiosity induced me to attend at the Masonic Temple, last evening, to hear the lecture of Dr. Poyen upon Animal Magnetism. I had read considerable upon the subject, and heard more, and went with a pampering to hear or see something to convince me of the realities of its pretensions. I had no preconceived prejudice against it. From some source or other I had imbibed favorable impressions of the science, as its friends would be disposed to call it. Formerly I should have set it down at once as a humbug, ranked it with that credulity which influences people to believe in the marvellous, and assigned it a place among other great wonderments of a day. Of late I have been more inclined to examine whatever comes tolerably well attested before the public. The change in my mind in regard to phrenology, which I once looked upon as bordering upon the ridiculous, has taught me not to consider everything which is new as nothing but insatuation.

I don't know what this will lead to. I may be induced to believe that there is more reality in witchcraft than we generally suppose, and that dreams are made of more substantial materials than all but the superstitious imagine. Astrology, palmistry, the belief in ghosts and goblins, may yet find a place in some particular compartment of my cranium.

But the lecture. I will now tell you about it. First, however, I will introduce you to the lecturer. He came into the room with that easy, complaisant, confidential air, that bespoke for him an exalted situation in the estimation of the audience. He introduced himself very handsomely at the commencement of his discourse. His apology for his inability to speak the English language with accuracy, was handsome. After apologizing for this enough, and no more than enough, he gave a hasty sketch of the history of animal magnetism, from its dawn to the present time. This was done in such a candid, unostentatious manner, that the favorable opinion imbibed at first towards him, was continued. He very candidly acknowledged the decision of "your great Franklin," as he called him,

against it, when acting as a member of a committee at Paris, to decide upon its merits and demerits.

His language was in some respects defective, and his pronunciation such as to render it difficult for those who did not pay strict attention, to follow the thread of his discourse. Still, enough was understood to give a tolerable idea of all he designed to communicate. Enough, at any rate, was understood to have the effect of occasionally almost convulsing the audience with laughter, and exciting the most spontaneous plaudits.

Thus far, you will perceive, I have seen fit to applaud everything. You must bear with me, if I now reverse my view. I have applauded everything I have spoken of, and justly, too; but I have not expressed my opinion of the science itself. I have stated that I previously entertained a favorable opinion of it, and that I went with a view of having that opinion strengthened. It was not strengthened, however. I have told you that he stated that our great Franklin decided against it. This, of itself, ought to have had some effect in laying the ghost, if it was a ghost. It had no effect upon my mind, however, because I knew it before, though it had ceased to have its merited influence.

The evidence adduced by the lecturer, though it was as complete as it probably could be, fell short of my expectations. It is true he introduced well-attested cases of individuals who had been magnetized, and experienced remarkable influences. But we have yet to learn whether it is different from a great many other influences, which are exerted upon individuals. The human form is an instrument which has a great many strings belonging to it, and which can have a great many tunes played upon it. Astrologers, fortune-tellers, and jugglers, have played their tunes upon it. The Alchymists, in searching for the philosopher's stone and the Universal Catholicon, have played theirs. The actors in the great drama or tragedy of the Salem Witchcraft, played a very solemn tune. Quack doctors of every description, each in his own way, are very skilful in playing their respective melodies upon it.

Is there anything more remarkable in animal magnetism than there is in the performances of the most ignorant quack upon the footstool? A person needs nothing more than to style himself an Indian, a Root or a Steam Doctor, to cure the most complicated, and in other respects the most incurable maladies that afflict the human constitution. The greatest mystery about the matter is, that the very remedies, which, while kept secret and administered by the hands of quacks, will cure everything, will cure nothing when their composition is known, or when administered by the hands of regular practitioners. Though I would not by any means rank Dr. Poyen, or any of the believers in animal magnetism, with quacks, yet several things which they assert correspond so exactly with the flummery of quacks, that I cannot refrain from mentioning it at this time. For instance, the magnetizer must be a healthy person, and must be a firm believer in the art he practises. The magnetized person must have some malady or indisposition of some kind, and must be a believer also. In other words, they must both have faith, and the mountain will be removed. Some persons can magnetize nobody, and some can be magnetized by nobody.

The whole secret of the matter is, some are made with temperaments which do not enable them to swallow a whale, and some can swallow anything—some believe that the moon is a cake of ice, and some that it is a lantern hung upon a peg in the sky.

I recollect something that made a great sound when I was a boy, which exactly corresponds with the subject under consideration. A sort of glass—I do not recollect what the name of it was—it will do to call it the magic glass—was carried the rounds, or in all the places where people were willing to be gulled and imposed upon, in which those who looked could see persons, places, cities, mountains, and any other kind of objects, by only calling them to their imagination. The marks of correspondence are these—some could not see in them, and some could—some could not hold the glass in the right position, and some could. This species of magnetism has long since been laid in its tomb, and I never should have thought of it more, but for the very remarkable correspondence of the two varieties.

Many, if not all, have heard of the quaker doctor, who, when he had been made acquainted with the names of the diseases, and the names of the persons afflicted with them, by repeating over a lingo that nobody, not even himself, understood, could cure all sorts of maladies.

Twenty or thirty years ago, a man by the name of Jaques came to the place where I belonged, who professed to have the skill of preparing an ointment that would cure the most inveterate rheumatism. Hundreds flocked to the rheumatic doctor to be cured; and, what was very remarkable, were cured, or pretended to be. At any rate, universal public report made it out that they were cured. No person, in a circumscribed sphere of life, ever arrived to so much eminence in so short a time. His cures were so wonderful, and his rewards, in a pecuniary sense, so great, that multitudes flocked around him to purchase the art of preparing the wonder-working catholicon, hoping thereby to make themselves rich. His advantages in this way were so lucrative, that everybody at length became acquainted with it, and from this time its magic was destroyed, and not another individual was relieved from the distressing malady. As every word of this is fact, I will be so particular as to tell you what the ointment was made of. In the first place, a specified number of frogs, of a particular genus, must be procured. These must be deposited in a new earthen pot, holding exactly two quarts. The pot must then be filled with water taken from a spring situated upon the north side of a hill, the outlet of which spring must run exactly north. It must then be covered with a rye unleavened paste, and the poor creatures, writhing and screeching, must be baked in an oven that never was used for anything before, until they were converted into a gelatinous kind of unguent.

Thus can it be seen in how many ways the credulity of mankind may be operated upon. The imagination is always upon tiptoe, looking forward for something more marvellous than is to be discovered in real life; and because the things themselves will not come up to this pitch of the imagination, the imagination is brought down to them, and has a world of its own, altogether of its own creating. That principle of the human

understanding which makes ghosts of trees, hears voices upon the midnight breeze, manufactures sound reality of dreams, expects to change porphyry, granite, and every other kind of stone, into gold, perceives witchery in everything that its limited ideas cannot comprehend, believes ignorant itinerants to be the best physicians, and that an atmosphere of intense thought may so circulate around and infuse itself into a sick person as to remove the malady, is the same thing, whatever object it is applied to, or whatever it exerts itself upon. It is desirous of finding something superhuman. It looks for it, expects to find it, and does find it. It operates in different ways, is exerted upon different objects, and is known by different names. It is of but very little consequence what the name is. You may call it excitement, superstition, overheated imagination, a propensity to believe in the profound skillfulness of quackery, or animal magnetism.

I have now, at your request, expressed my views of animal magnetism. Perhaps I have made too low an estimate of it. Perhaps, too, I shall alter my opinion about it for the better. It will make but little difference, however, if not one out of a hundred million should ever know what my opinions are. The world will go on pretty much as it lists. Animal Magnetism will either rise in the estimation of mankind, or live its allotted period and sink into forgetfulness. Quackery of various descriptions will continue to deceive and gull many people, and the world will not grow wiser but by slow and imperceptible degrees.

Boston, Dec. 13th, 1836.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JANUARY 4, 1837.

EFFECTS OF THE VENEREAL POISON ON THE EYE.

IN one of Dr. Wallace's recent lectures at the Skin Infirmary, Dublin, we were much interested with his practical remarks upon that division of the subject which bears the above title. Not finding them susceptible of being abridged without materially lessening their force, and being unwilling to allow such a valuable paper to pass wholly unnoticed, it is here introduced in detail—and we strongly recommend its careful perusal by practitioners. Familiar as medical men have become with syphilis, it is a disease which has so many phases, that much difficulty is experienced, even among the most skilful, in combating its destructive march in the human system.

The fearful inroads made by the venereal poison in the lymphatics, the cellular tissue, the bones, and even the essential organs of sense, render it of grave importance to gather, from every possible source, all the information which the collective wisdom of ages has brought down to our times, illustrative of its peculiarities.

“There exists no doubt that the venereal poison has the power, by its influence through the general system, of exciting a peculiar disease of

the eye, which has, from the circumstance of the iris being much affected, been called iritis. This symptom of constitutional syphilis may exist either alone or with other symptoms. It is sometimes an accompaniment of the pustular eruption, more frequently, however, of the exanthematic; but whether the former or the latter form of affection attends it, the eruption is, in general, mild. Iritis seldom occurs in conjunction with either the ulcerating pustule or the ulcerating tubercle. Its ordinary attendants are the small encrusting pustule, or the desquamating papula, or scaly patch.

"The iritis which results from the venereal poison is now so well known, and so fully described in works which are in all your hands, that I shall not say anything respecting it, save a few words relative to its diagnosis; for, although the symptoms of iritis be now well ascertained, and although there are few who could mistake this inflammation for inflammation of any of the other parts of the eye, it is often by no means easy to decide whether a given case of iritis be syphilitic or not.

"We find certain symptoms, viz., an effusion of lymph in nodules, an oval and irregular form of the pupil, a green color of the iris, an exacerbation at night of the pain which the patient experiences, all laid down as pathognomonic of the syphilitic nature of the disease, yet I believe there is not one of these symptoms upon which we can depend. I admit that if they are present, we may fairly say that syphilitic iritis is present; but I believe that any one of them may be absent, and still this form of disease be present. I have seen venereal iritis without an effusion of lymph, without any perceptible alteration in the color of the iris, without any contraction or angular deformity of the pupil. I have seen the pupil dilated as well as contracted in this disease, and I believe an immobility of the pupil is a much more constant symptom than either dilatation or contraction, or irregularity. It has always appeared to me, that there is a peculiarity in the tint of red which distinguishes the vessels in iritis, that arises from a venereal source; and although in certain cases there may be considerable pain, I believe it will be found that there is less proportion between the severity of the pain and the diminution of vision, than is to be observed in idiopathic iritis. We should remember that the varieties which this disease presents are considerable. It is sometimes extremely rapid in its progress, and at others proportionably slow, or chronic. One or both eyes may be affected at the same time, or one eye may be affected; and, when it has been improved, the disease may continue in the other; and at times it will be found that when the eye which was secondarily affected has improved, or gotten well, the disease will recur in the organ primarily affected. All these varieties I have frequently witnessed. To sum up the diagnostic signs of syphilitic iritis:—The appearances upon which I would most depend are, great and sudden deterioration of vision, compared with the other symptoms; a sluggish or immoveable state of the pupil; a peculiarity in the tint of red which characterizes the inflammation; and a haziness or muddiness of the humors of the eye. As symptoms of second-rate certainty, I would enumerate alteration in the form and dimensions of the pupil, and in the color of the iris, the effusion of lymph on its edge or its surface, the nocturnal character of the pain, the greater degree of redness round the cornea than at any other part of the eye. When these latter symptoms are present, of course there can be no doubt of the presence of iritis, but their absence would not make me conclude that this disease was absent,

provided the symptoms just enumerated were present. That form of iritis which is frequently a sequel of fever in this country, more nearly resembles, when fully developed, syphilitic iritis, than any other variety of iritis does. But the history of this variety of iritis, and particularly its being preceded, as I have pointed out, in my paper on the subject, published in the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, by an anarrotic symptoms, as well as the absence of other symptoms of the venereal disease, will remove all difficulty of diagnosis."

Smallpox in Boston.—Eighty patients have been admitted into the Smallpox Hospital at the Boston Quarantine Ground, in 1836. A large proportion of these were removed from various parts of the city. Only four have died with the smallpox out of this great number, in the time mentioned. At present, fourteen patients are confined to the wards—and fortunately, all convalescing.

The Virginia Dwarfs.—This is truly a remarkable family of pigmies. Major Walters, one of the three, is about 26 years of age—weighs 43 pounds, and is three feet and seven inches tall.

Miss Roxana is 20 years of age, three feet high, and weighs 30 lbs.

Miss Catharine is 13 years of age, three feet one inch high, and weighs 30 pounds.

Master William is in his ninth year, is two feet eight inches high, and weighs 22 pounds.

The father of these children is a man nearly six feet high, and says his wife was of the ordinary size. The Major also has with him a sister, we believe between Catharine and Roxana, by the same mother; she is of masculine appearance.

Cæsarean Operation in New York.—Dr. Christopher C. Rice, on Thursday last, performed the Cæsarean operation on a person residing at No. 214 Stanton street, in part successfully. And the doctor stated, as his opinion, if the patient had not been at the time of operating, in "articulo mortis," that she would probably have recovered.

This is the first time, we believe, this dangerous and arduous operation has been attempted by any surgeon in this city.—*N. Y. Times*.

"We should like to learn why, if it was necessary to perform this very dangerous, and we suspect, in this case, uncalled-for operation, at all, the woman was suffered to become in articulo mortis, before the operation was attempted. What does 'in part successfully' mean? Was the child saved? If not, and the mother was destroyed, how can the operation be considered in part successful? The whole case looks to us like a desperate attempt to get the doctor's name in the papers, by performing an operation, requiring more boldness than skill in the operator, upon a poor woman in the last agonies of death. The editor of the *American* observes, 'We have never read a more ludicrous effort at a puff.' It would be ludicrous to us also were it not for our sympathy for the unfortunate patient."

The above comments on the first notice of the operation in the *Times*, we copy from the *New York Sunday Morning News*. We shall reserve our own observations till we are furnished with an exact report of the

case through the pages of some of our exchange Journals, or get the exact facts from some correspondent.

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. John Stephenson's medical zoology, or illustrations of the animals and minerals employed in medicine, was being published in London on the first of November.—Graphic Illustrations of abortion and the diseases of menstruation, by Dr. Granville, is now on sale.—Charing Cross Hospital has been struck from the list of those establishments which have heretofore made candidates for medical honors. The Council of the College of Surgeons will not receive testimonials of attendance on practice there.—In Manchester, a locality containing 250,000 people, no fewer than 40,151 receive gratuitous medical aid.—Drs. Bellnomini, Bardsley, and Mr. Lewis, the attending physicians of Madam Malibran de Beriot, keep whist, notwithstanding the demand made upon them to declare the exact cause of that celebrated woman's death.—Dr. Thompson's lectures on medical jurisprudence, now in the course of delivery in the University of London, evidence a profound knowledge of the subject. That section of the third lecture which treats of the confessions of dying persons, should be extensively circulated.—M. Magendie is still actively teaching the rising generation. The College of France is now the centre of great attraction. His discourses on the physiology of the nervous system, were never excelled. Untiring industry, such as distinguishes this extraordinary man, never fails to give an individual a widely extended reputation.—The lectures at the School of Physic, in Ireland, commenced on the 7th of November. Dr. Graves, principal editor of the Dublin Journal, holds the chair of the institutes of medicine.—Mr. Alexandre, of Great Rued Street, still drives a profitable trade in the sale of skulls, skeletons, and all sorts of anatomical preparations. It is passing strange that some enterprising person does not open a similar magazine here: it is wanted exceedingly.—A boy at Gettysburg, Penn. in the act of running and jumping, on his way from school, fell and broke his neck.—Dr. W. A. Berry, U. S. Medical Staff, has resigned.—Dr. Baker, of Clinton, Ohio, informs the public, that "although the firm of Ladd & Baker has yielded up the ghost, he is yet alive and wishes to live with the people, and not on them."—Quinine is said to have arrested the effects of the poison from the bite of serpents.—The plague still continues at Constantinople; it was supposed that one thousand persons had died of it in a single week.—Dr. Morpurgo, at Smyrna, for advice which saved the limb of an American officer, when other surgeons recommended its amputation, is greatly commended in the Smyrna Journal.—A Rajpooter of Ahmednuggin was prescribed for in 1836, by a native physician, after this sort: "Take the heart and liver of twenty children;" and it is fully believed that the patient has tried the remedy, as several children have been missed.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The communications of Drs. Gallup, Workman and Palmer, will be inserted next week.

DIED.—In Bethlem, Ct. Dr. Lyman Catlin, aged 46.—In Hebron, Geo. Dr. John A. Bulfinch, aged 30.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending December, 30 37. Males, 15—females, 22. Typhus fever, 2—old age, 3—infantile, 4—dropsy on the brain, 3—lung fever, 2 consumption, 10—hooping cough, 2—bilious fever, 1—dropsy, 1—inflammation of bowels, 1—child bed, 1—brain fever, 1—decline, 1—burn, 1—cramp in the stomach, 1—suicide, 1—convulsions, 1—stillborn, 4.

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Jan 20—1yep

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Franklin Street, Nov. 9, 1836.

N16—tf

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Nov. 30.

VACCINE VIRUS.

PHYSICIANS in any part of the United States may hereafter be furnished with pure vaccine virus, by addressing the editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal—*inclosing one dollar*. Letters must be post-paid, or they will not be taken from the Post Office. The virus will invariably be sent by the first mail, unless some other mode of conveyance is directed. Ten charged quills, an ample quantity for meeting any sudden emergency, and certainly sufficient to propagate a supply from, will be securely packed in a letter. The gentleman who has undertaken to keep the virus, will faithfully supply that which is positively genuine and recently taken. It will also be furnished on application at the Medical Journal office.

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